

# THE MACON BEACON.

VOLUME XLVIII.

MACON, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1898.

NUMBER 26.

## THE STORY OF THE GREAT BATTLE.

The Greatest Naval Achievement of Any Age Graphically and Clearly Described.

Story of the Battle of Manila Bay Told by an Officer of the Flagship Olympia.

Consummate Daring, Skillful Tactics and Astounding Results the Battle Stands Without a Parallel in the World's Annals of Naval Warfare.

American Squadron Came Through the Fiery Ordeal Without the Loss of a Man, and Not a Vessel Was Seriously Damaged, While the Enemy Was Annihilated.

At 11 o'clock, U. S. S. staff, corresponding to the battle of Manila Bay, May 1, 1898.

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The Olympia was now ready to begin the fight.

Commodore Dewey, his chief of staff, Commander Lamberton, an aide and myself, with Executive Officer Lieut. Rees and Navigator Lieut. Calkins, who conformed most admirably, were on the forward bridge. Capt. Gridley was in the conning tower, and at 4 minutes past five o'clock, at a distance of 3,500 yards, the starboard eight-inch gun in the forward turret roared forth a compliment to the Spanish forces.

Presently similar guns from the Baltimore and the Boston sent 20-pound shells hurtling toward the Castilla and the Reina Cristina.

The Spaniards seemed encouraged to fire faster, knowing exactly our distance, while we had to guess theirs. Their ship and shore guns were making things hot for us.

The piercing scream of shot was varied often by the bursting of time-fuse shells, fragments of which would lash the water like the shrapnel or cut our hull and rigging.

One large shell that was coming straight at the Olympia, forward bridge fortunately fell less than 100 feet short. One fragment cut the rigging exactly over the heads of Lamberton, Rees and myself.

Another struck the bridge gratings in line with it. A third passed just under Commodore Dewey and gouged a hole in the deck. Incidents like these were plentiful.

Our men naturally chafed at being exposed without returning fire from all our guns, but laughed at danger and chatted good-humoredly.

A few nervous fellows could not help dodging, mechanically, when shells would burst right over them or close aboard, or would strike the water and pass overhead, with the peculiar spluttering roar made by a tumbling rifle projectile.

Still the flagship steered for the center of the Spanish line, and as our other ships were astern, the Olympia received most of the Spaniards' attention.

Owing to our deep draught, Commodore Dewey felt restrained to change his course at a distance of 4,000 yards and run parallel to the Spanish column.

"Open with all guns," he said, and the ship brought her port broadside bearing.

The roar of all the flagship's deep draughters was followed by a deep din from her turret eight-inchers.

Soon our other vessels were equally hard at work, and we could see that our shells were making the Spanish fleet make the approach for us.

Protected by their shore batteries and made safe from close attack by shallow water, the Spaniards were in a strong position.

They put up a gallant fight. The Spanish ships were sailing back and forth behind the Castilla, and their fire, too, was hot.

One shot struck the Baltimore and passed clean through her, fortunately hitting no one. Another ripped up her main deck, disabled a six-inch gun and exploded a box of three-pounder ammunition, wounding eight men.

Four were killed and 50 wounded on the Don Antonio de Ulla.

At this range even six-pounders were effective, and the storm of shells poured upon the unfortunate Spanish began to show marked results.

Three of the enemy's vessels were seen burning and their fire slackened. On finishing this run Commodore Dewey decided to give the men breakfast, as they had been at the guns two hours, with only one cup of coffee to sustain them. Action ceased temporarily at 35 minutes past 7 o'clock, the other ships passing the flagship and clearing lustily.

Our ships remained beyond range of the enemy's guns until ten minutes of 11 o'clock, when the signal for close action again went up. The Baltimore had the place of honor in the lead, with the flagship following and the other ships astern.

The Spaniards began firing at the Spanish ships and batteries at 10 minutes past 11 o'clock, making a series of hits, as if at target practice.

The Spaniards replied very slowly, and the commodore signalled the Raleigh, the Boston, the Concord and the Petrel to go into the inner harbor and destroy all the enemy's ships.

By her light draught the Petrel was enabled to move in within 1,000 yards. Here, firing swiftly but accurately, she commenced everything still flying the Spanish flag.

Other ships were also doing their whole duty, and soon not one red and yellow ensign remained aloft, except on a battery up the coast.

The Spanish flagship and the Castilla had long been burning fiercely, and the last vessel to be abandoned was the Don Antonio de Ulla, which lurched over and sank.

Then the Spanish flag on the arsenal staff was hoisted down, and at half-past 12 o'clock a white flag was hoisted there. Signal was made to the Petrel to destroy all the vessels in the inner harbor, and Lieut. Hughes, with an armed boat's crew, set fire to the Don Juan de Austria, Marquis Duero, the Isla de Cuba and the Corrales.

The large transport, Manila and her tugboats and small craft fell into our hands.

"Capture or destroy Spanish squadron," were Dewey's orders. Never were instructions more effectively carried out. Within seven hours after arriving on the scene of action nothing remained to be done.

Later Details—Admiral Montojo Wounded. I find that in my previous dispatches I underestimated the losses of the Spaniards in Sunday's battle.

The surgeon of the Castilla tells me that Admiral Montojo was wounded. The captain, chaplain and 90 others were killed and six were wounded on the Castilla.

One hundred and fifty were killed and 90 wounded on the Reina Cristina, Admiral Montojo's flagship.

It is impossible to open communication between the shore and the fleet; therefore news about events ashore is very scarce on board the American vessels.

The little that has leaked through indicates the probability that the insurgents will soon attack the city. Spanish residents of Manila are very bitter against the governor general and are threatening to depose him.

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ing it blown off, as the shell instantly burst.

Three fragments of one shell struck the Olympia within a radius of 15 feet from Commodore Dewey.

The armor-piercing projectile that exploded the box of three-pounder ammunition on board the Baltimore passed between two groups of men so close to each other that it is difficult to see how all escaped.

To add to the horror of the scene, several long, wolflike dogs had discovered the bodies before we had.

The British gunboat Linnet entered the bay Monday night, and some of her men having the plague, she did not come near our ships.

The French armored cruiser Bruix entered the bay to-day. The British cruiser Immortalite is understood to be on her way to Manila.

Eighty Spanish bodies were found unburied Monday night, and we gave them burial Tuesday morning, calling in a Roman Catholic priest to read the burial service over their remains.

The bodies presented a horrible sight. One had the head almost wholly carried away. Another had been struck in the stomach by a large projectile, cutting everything away to the backbone.

One very large man, apparently an officer, was not only mangled, but burned, and all the bodies were frightfully bloated.

Probably there were nowhere a more interested or more thoroughly happy set of persons than the group of wives of American naval officers who have been living in Hong Kong in order to be near their husbands.

Having heard but little except alarming rumors since the squadron left for Manila, they are now recovering their normal security with the certainty that their husbands are safe. There are about a dozen of these officers' wives, forming a little navy colony here.

THE RISING AT MILAN, ITALY. The Troops Are Apparently Masters of the Situation—Work Has Been Resumed in the Factories.

LODGO, Switzerland, May 9.—According to the latest news received here from Milan, Italy, the rising of the people there appears to have been mastered. Reinforcements of troops have been pouring into the city all night long.

There was a renewal of the disturbances at Milan Sunday night, due to the arrival of a mob of students from Pavia, armed with revolvers. They attempted to force an entrance into the city, but were repulsed by a detachment of Bersaglieri, who killed two of the students and wounded four.

In the parts of Milan where the resistance was most desperate whole streets were torn up by the mob, not a piece of glass unbroken, the doors are mostly torn down, and on all sides can be seen the remains of fire and wrecked furniture and other household goods.

In fact, those portions of the city are practically sacked. The bodies of the killed were generally piled in doorways, and were afterwards collected by army wagons. The hospitals, permanent and temporary, are overcrowded with wounded people.

It is announced that work has been resumed in the factories of Milan.

At Genzano, near Rome, the troops fired on a mob which was engaged in looting. Two persons were killed and many wounded.

On BOARD THE DEPARTING BOAT KATE SPENCER, OFF CARDENAS, May 9.—Via Key West, May 10.—The Spanish soldiers are displaying much activity along the line of coast from Bahia Honda, 45 miles west of Havana, to Cardenas, 65 miles to the eastward. As the ships of the blockading fleet have instructions to prevent the erection of new fortifications, and have at various points shelled working parties, the task of strengthening existing defenses and throwing up earthworks is carried on principally at night, save in the immediate vicinity of Havana.

The narrow escape of the Vicksburg and Morrill, on Saturday, when they were decimated within easy range of the Santa Clara batteries, just west of Moro castle, has taught some of the unarmored ships a lesson, and it is not likely that that class of boats will venture within close range of the modern high-power guns again. Along the coast fresh sand batteries are being thrown up almost every night, but these works are of a flimsy character, and would be reduced by the fire of the big guns in a few minutes. The officers of the blockading fleet believe Capt. Gen. Blanco is wasting a good deal of energy in the erection of insignificant shore batteries. The strengthening of the more formidable works about Havana is a very different thing. It may be, however, by the erection of these light batteries, which must be abandoned as soon as the serious work of the fleet begins, Blanco puts heart in his starving soldiers and imbues them with the idea that a Yankee invasion can be repelled at any point.

The Hornet and the Winslow, now blockading Matanzas, have had a lively time for several days shelling Spanish details at work on batteries and telegraph lines outside of the entrance of the harbor. There, as at other points, most of the work is done at night, and each morning sees fresh earthworks thrown up, like fresh outposts, against the rusty green of the coast.

On Sunday morning the Hornet found a party putting a telegraph line from the lighthouse and signal station, a mile east of Matanzas harbor, to the battery west of Point Salanilla, on the other side of the bay. The batteries ashore are said to be of some magnitude, mounting a few high-power guns. To stop this telegraphic activity, the Hornet scattered quietly and dropped a shell in the midst of the workmen. They scattered like rabbits, and the line grounded then and there. Several other telegraph parties have been discovered in the same way at other points. It is evidently the intention of the Spaniards to establish communication by wire with all their coast blockhouses and batteries, with a view, possibly, of massing troops and guns to oppose a landing whenever threatened. However, they will probably carry their wires behind the first range of hills, where they will be less subject to sudden interruption.

It is not possible that there are enough guns at the command of the Spaniards to mount them in all the sand batteries springing up, but as there is a railway from Havana to Matanzas, quite close to the coast, the authorities may be deluding themselves with the idea that they can transport heavy guns to the batteries across the country by the railway.

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MISSISSIPPI MATTERS.

Railroad Commission. The Railroad Commission met at Jackson last week and transacted the following business: Superintendent Sharp of the Y. & M. V. R. R. appeared before the commission in response to summons in the matter of depot facilities at Farrell, Calhoun county, and Lorenzen, Sharkey county. He filed a statement compiled by the auditor of the road showing amount of business done at both places for the last five years. Also a statement that the company ought not to be forced to build on account of the nearness of other stations. Commission reached conclusion that on that showing the company could not legally be compelled to build. Case dismissed.

Upon application Vice-President Carroll of the M. & O. R. R. that an order had been issued by his company to allow passengers to ride on freight trains, the commission instructed the secretary to notify the citizens of Egypt that their petition for that station to be made a flag station for night trains no longer existed.

Citizens of Stewart, Montgomery county, have petitioned for depot facilities. Case not acted on as yet. Superintendent Sharp notified the commission that Postal Telegraph office has been put in at Webb, Miss., as per order of commission. Superintendent Stephens, of the Western Union, has notified the commission that the order requiring the telegraph office at Hattiesburg to be removed from the depot to the town has been complied with. Yazoo & Mississippi Valley road has notified commission that waiting rooms have been put in at Percy and Egmont. Also that all repairs petitioned for by citizens of Merigold have been completed.

The secretary was instructed to correspond with J. J. White, of the Columbia & Lumberton Railroad Company, asking why no tax returns for that road have been filed with the commission for 1898.

Call to Arms. In response to a call from Isham Harris Camp No. 27, U. C. V., and the local chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, a large crowd assembled at Columbus last week to hear speeches from prominent citizens on the question of the hour, the Spanish war. In an eloquent patriotic address, urged the boys and men of Columbus and Lowndes county to respond to their country's call for troops. There are two reasons why the companies of Lowndes county have not already volunteered. One is because they do not like the idea of serving under regimental officers appointed by Gov. McRae unless they know who these officers are to be; and the second is that the militia of the county is divided up into five companies, when in reality there should be only one or two at the outside. The members of the various companies are for the most part ready and anxious to go, but are unwilling that their respective organizations should lose their individuality by being merged into other companies which may perhaps be commanded by officers of whom they know nothing. An effort is being made to have the Columbus Riflemen and Queen City Guards consolidated and go as one company. If this effort is successful Columbus can send a company of about twenty-five men, which will probably go out under command of Capt. E. S. Donnell, of the Columbus Riflemen.

A Couple of Pardons. Calvin Fore, a life convict from Rankin county, was pardoned last week. Fore escaped and stayed at large for ten years, but was finally recaptured and lodged in the penitentiary. He is not expected to live long. The same clemency was extended Kirby Miller, a once popular young man who, about five years ago, stabbed and killed the mayor of Hazlehurst.

Quarterly Report. The Kansas City, Memphis & Birmingham railroad has filed its quarterly report with the railroad commission. It is as follows: Total passenger receipts, \$10,502.72; Total freight receipts, \$20,019.60; Total receipts from sources, \$30,522.32; Operating expenses this quarter, \$28,233.37; Net earnings, \$2,288.95. The report is for the quarter ending March 31.

Report of Western Union. The Western Union Telegraph Company has filed its report with the State railroad commission for the quarter ending March 31, 1898. It shows: Taxes paid during quarter, \$4,307.39; Receipts within State, \$1,143.28; Operating receipts from outside, \$6,003.77; Net receipts derived from within State, \$2,735.51.

A Generous Offer. Gov. McRae has received the following generous offer: "GREENVILLE, May 6.—The First National Guard of Greenville tenders your excellency the sum of \$500 for the use of the Mississippi troops."

The proposition will probably be accepted, the money to go to purchasing additional conveniences for the Mississippi boys.

In New Quarters. The State board of health has moved into new and more commodious quarters, which are located in the Svingler block, Jackson.

Sunday School Convention. After three interesting days' sessions at Oxford last week the nineteenth annual convention of the Mississippi State Sunday School Association adjourned to meet at Greenwood next year. Many noteworthy papers were read by the attending delegates, and the time spent in convention was profitably used. An agreeable feature was a complimentary recital by the pupils of elocution in Union Female college. The recital was thoroughly enjoyed by all the attending delegates, and reflected much credit on its originators and managers.

Smallpox in Kemper. The State board of health is in receipt of notification of the existence of smallpox near Lauderdale. Two negroes just over the line in Kemper county have the disease. The patients have been isolated and no difficulty is apprehended in stamping out the disease.

Resolutions on Senator Walhall. To give some expression of their sorrow at the death of Gen. Walhall, the first commander of the United Confederate Veterans of Mississippi, Robert A. Smith Camp of Jackson adopted resolutions of respect to his memory.

Don't. Don't put off till to-morrow the thing somebody else will do for you to-day. Don't judge a man by the clothes he wears, instead of by those he pays for. Don't think because a man holds a position of trust that he will trust you. Don't judge the size of a girl's foot by the size of the shoe she asks for. Don't think because an heiress is a female heir that a mattress is a female mat. Don't give your candid opinion to a friend unless you are tired of the friendship. Don't think because variety is the spice of life that many people are stuck on hash. Don't get the idea into your head that distance lends enchantment to a man's view of pay-day. Don't think for a minute that a corn looses any of its virulencies, when covered by a patent-leather shoe.—Chicago Daily News.

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LODGO, Switzerland, May 9.—According to the latest news received here from Milan, Italy, the rising of the people there appears to have been mastered. Reinforcements of troops have been pouring into the city all night long.

There was a renewal of the disturbances at Milan Sunday night, due to the arrival of a mob of students from Pavia, armed with revolvers. They attempted to force an entrance into the city, but were repulsed by a detachment of Bersaglieri, who killed two of the students and wounded four.

In the parts of Milan where the resistance was most desperate whole streets were torn up by the mob, not a piece of glass unbroken, the doors are mostly torn down, and on all sides can be seen the remains of fire and wrecked furniture and other household goods.

In fact, those portions of the city are practically sacked. The bodies of the killed were generally piled in doorways, and were afterwards collected by army wagons. The hospitals,